

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed October 5, 2007, and the Advisory Action mailed January 23, 2008, have been received and their contents carefully noted. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for One Month Extension of Time*, which extends the shortened statutory period for response to February 5, 2008. Also, filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for Continued Examination*. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 12, 2003; February 25, 2004; September 21, 2004; May 10, 2005; April 21, 2006; March 13, 2007; and August 16, 2007.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-12 and 14-29 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claims 30-33 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicant is entitled. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-12 and 14-33 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 7 of the Official Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 14-16 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,456,353 to Chen and U.S. Patent No. 5,567,967 to Kusumoto. Paragraph 12 of the Official Action rejects claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 18-20, 22, 23, 26 and 27 as obvious based on the combination of Chen, Kusumoto and page 2 of the present specification, which the Official Action refers to as "Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA)." Paragraph 24 of the Official Action rejects dependent claim 17 as obvious based on the combination of Chen, Kusumoto and U.S. Patent No. 6,019,284 to Freeman. Paragraph 30 of the Official Action rejects dependent claims 21, 25 and 29 as obvious based on the combination of Chen, Kusumoto, AAPA and Freeman. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because the Official Action has not made a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

As stated in MPEP §§ 2142-2143.01, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some reason, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some reason to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. "The test for an implicit showing is what the combined teachings, knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, and the nature of the problem to be solved as a whole would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art." In re Kotzab, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). See also In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

The prior art, either alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest all the features of the independent claims. Independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 recite, among other features, a display device electrically connected to a thin film integrated circuit through a contact hole in a substrate. For the reasons provided below, Chen, Kusumoto, AAPA and Freeman, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-referenced features of the present invention.

The Official Action asserts that "Chen discloses ... a substrate (702) having a contact hole (Chen discloses Col. 5, lines 54-56, that the substrate 702 include interconnecting wiring and therefore contact holes in it)" (page 3, Paper No. 20070918). The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the assertions in the Official Action.

Chen appears to teach a flexible base film 702 and that "an interconnecting wiring 506 is fabricated on the flexible base film 702 (column 5, lines 38-39; Figure 5 reproduced below). Other similar disclosures in Chen make clear that various

components are formed "on" the flexible base film 702 (column 5, lines 40-56). There is no teaching or suggestion that contact holes are formed in the flexible base film 702.

Figures 5, 6A, 6B, 7 and 8 of Chen are reproduced below. Figure 5 shows interconnecting wiring 506 formed on flexible base film 504.

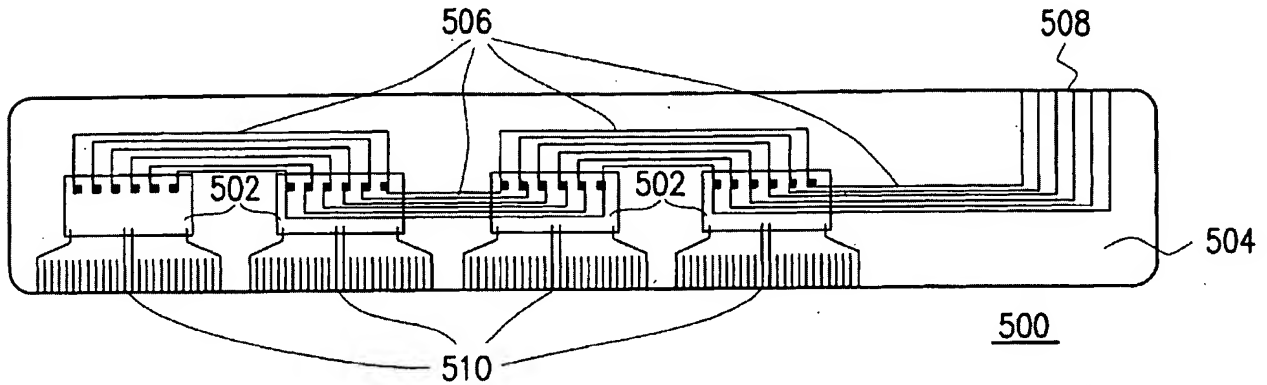


FIG. 5

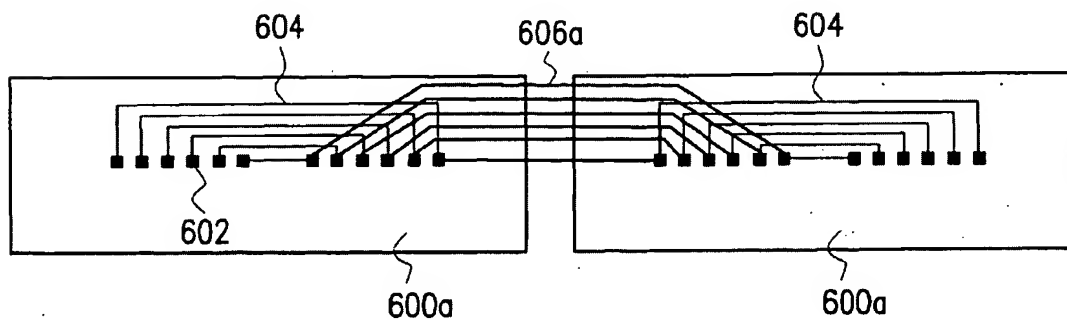


FIG. 6A

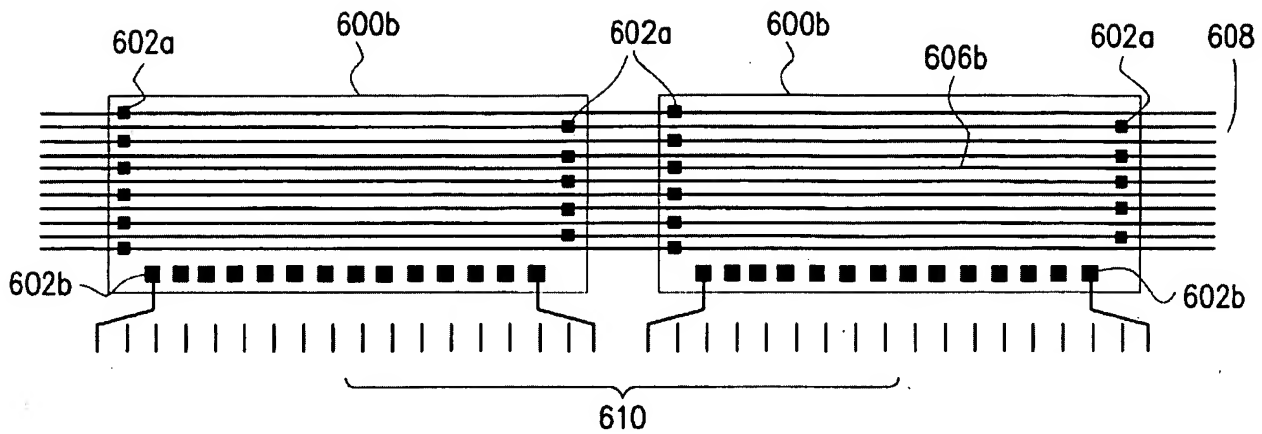


FIG. 6B

Also, Figures 7 and 8 show flexible base film 702.

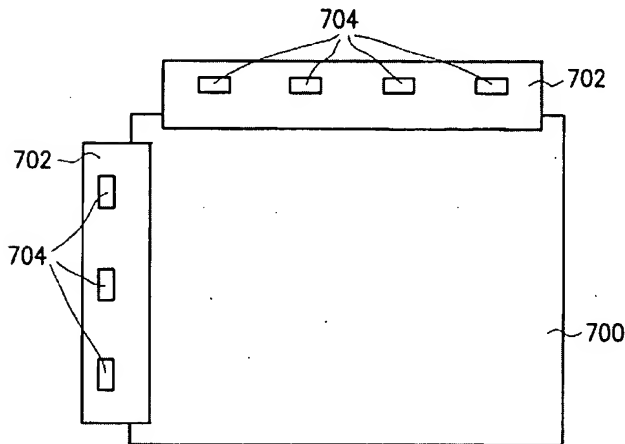


FIG. 7

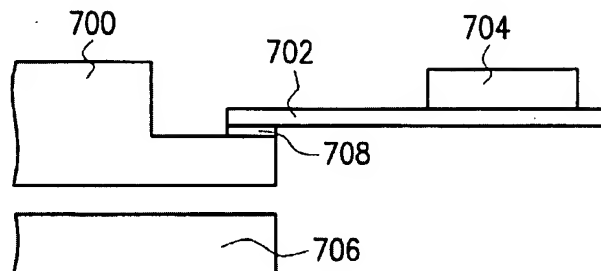


FIG. 8

The Applicant respectfully submits that Chen does not teach or suggest forming a contact hole in flexible base film 504 or 702. Specifically, Chen discloses the following: "Transmitting, controlling and processing electrical signals are accomplished by electrically connecting the display driver IC module to the external circuits and the liquid crystal panel through signal input terminals 508 and signal output terminals 510 of the interconnecting wiring 506, respectively" (column 4, lines 26-31). That is, Figures 5, 6A, 6B, 7 and 8 and the specification of Chen teach that the interconnecting wiring is used for transmitting a signal and is fabricated on the flexible base film. Thus, contrary

to the assertion in the Official Action, in Chen, the word "interconnecting" does not mean "contact hole." Rather, the Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention would understand that the interconnecting wiring 506 is a wiring formed on the flexible base film 504 or 702.


Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Chen does not teach or suggest a display device electrically connected to a thin film integrated circuit through a contact hole in a substrate.

Please incorporate the arguments above with respect to the deficiencies in Chen. Kusumoto, AAPA and Freeman do not cure the deficiencies in Chen. The Official Action relies on Kusumoto to allegedly teach an LC display with a peripheral driving circuit where both use a polycrystalline semiconductor layer (page 4, Paper No. 20070908), on AAPA to allegedly teach that a thickness of an IC card is generally 0.7 mm (page 6, Id.), and on Freeman to allegedly teach a wireless communication element (page 8, Id.). However, Chen, Kusumoto, AAPA and Freeman, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the following features or that Chen should be modified to include any of the following features: a display device electrically connected to a thin film integrated circuit through a contact hole in a substrate. Since Chen, Kusumoto, AAPA and Freeman do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

New claims 30-33 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicant is entitled. The features of claims 30-33 are supported in the present specification, for example, Figures 1C to 2C. The Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 30-33 are in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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